

Monday, April 07, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
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RE: Media Ownership Policy Decision - June 2003

Honorable Commissioners:

Yesterday, on a sunny and beautiful "Sunday in Phoenix" afternoon, I sat and watched War TV on CNN, FOXNEWS, and MSNBC. I thought, "Woman - you need to stop this! Turn it to something else!" So I started channel flicking and stopped on my local PBS channel, KAET. The program? Now with Bill Moyers. What a revelation! From the website regarding yesterday's segment, "Politics and Big Media": <http://www.pbs.org/now/politics/bigmedia.html#fcc>

"...Yet a recent study by [The Project for Excellence in Journalism](#) showed that a large majority of the American public aren't aware of the media ownership changes being suggested by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). **Seventy-two percent of the respondents reported that they had "heard nothing at all" about the new ownership proposals.** When asked if relaxed media ownership rules would have a negative or positive effect on the country, 11 percent thought relaxed rules would be positive; 46 percent thought it would make no difference, and 34 percent thought the result would be negative. You can [tell the FCC](#) what you think, and visit [other sites](#) to read a wide range of perspectives on the issue. Below are some facts and links that will help you learn more about what's at stake." (my emphasis)

Fortunately, I'm NOT a part of that 72% statistic. I have been in contact with my congressional representative, Senator Jon Kyl, regarding my concerns. I STRONGLY OPPOSE MEDIA CONGLOMERATES!

During a segment of this program they reported on the January 18, 2002 anhydrous ammonia spill due to a train derailment at 1:34 am in Minot, North Dakota. One man died, over 1000 were injured. 911 was overwhelmed and the Police could not get the local radio stations to answer to advise residents on what to do: <http://www.in-forum.com/specials/minot/part2.cfm?id=16521>

"We weren't prepared for a disaster of this magnitude," said Minot Fire Chief Harold Haugstad. "I don't think anybody is."

In the first 30 minutes after the wreck, dozens of people called 911 asking for information and requesting help. Operators reassured callers that rescuers would be there shortly.

Shortly after 2 a.m., Haugstad instructed 911 operators to tell residents to "shelter in place," or wait out the disaster in their homes by shutting off furnaces, breathing through wet towels and blocking all windows and doors.

Police called the TV and radio stations responsible for broadcasting emergency messages, hoping to spread the safety instructions.

But the two local TV stations were off the air, and the radio stations were playing programming piped in by satellite.

Dispatchers reached station officials at home, but the messages didn't make it on air until after 3 a.m." (my emphasis)

We are at War ladies and gentlemen. Homeland Security's website urges people to have a radio and extra batteries in their supply kit. http://ready.gov/supply_checklists.html Won't do much good if the radio stations are on "automatic pilot" and no one answers the phone. But then again, even if they do answer, will Corporate allow a change in programming without prior authorization at Director level? We all know that game, don't we?

But hey! At least Clear Channel can satisfy their sponsors by enforcing their Patriotic Songs play list while towing the party line that War is Good for the Economy. To Hell with the public. Seig Heil! Seig Heil!

Sorry, I apologize. Must be all this War stuff on TV. There - I turned it off. Maybe I'll just listen to the radio - oh, Rush Limbaugh is on...

Sincerely Opposed,

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